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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al. ✓

Appln. No. : 09/961,365 ✓

Group Art Unit: 3682

Examiner:

Filed : September 25, 2001 ✓

For : THIN AUTOTENSIONER ✓

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
JUN 26 2002

GROUP 3600

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the instant application on December 26, 2001, Applicants hereby call the following documents, which were cited in a United Kingdom Search Report dated May 8, 2002 for corresponding Application No. GB 0126158.5, to the Examiner's attention:

U.K. Patent Application No. GB 2 102 097 A, published on January 26, 1983, was cited as a category X document (*i.e.*, a document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step) with respect to at least claims 1, 2, and 6 of the United Kingdom application. The United Kingdom Examiner considered the abstract, the figures, and the damping mechanism 46 to be relevant;

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European Patent Application No. EP 0 967 412, published on December 29, 1999, was cited as a category X document (*i.e.*, a document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step) with respect to at least claims 1-3 and 6. The United Kingdom Examiner considered the abstract, the figures, and the friction member 28/29 to be relevant;

European Patent Application No. EP 0 351 630, published on January 24, 1990, was cited as a category X document (*i.e.*, a document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step) with respect to at least claims 1-3 and 6. The United Kingdom Examiner considered the abstract and figures to be relevant;

International Patent Publication No. WO 95/29347, published on November 2, 1995, was cited as a category X document (*i.e.*, a document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step) with respect to at least claims 1-3 and 6. The United Kingdom Examiner considered the abstract and figures to be relevant;

U.S. Patent No. 5,599,245 to GIESE, issued on February 4, 1997, was cited as a category X document (*i.e.*, a document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step) with respect to at least claims 1-3 and 6. The United Kingdom Examiner considered the abstract and figures to be relevant;

German Patent No. 44 31 801, published on March 14, 1996, together with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a category X document (*i.e.*, a document

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indicating lack of novelty or inventive step) with respect to at least claims 1, 2, and 6. The United Kingdom Examiner considered the abstract and figures to be relevant;

German Patent No. 36 37 103, published on May 26, 1988, together with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a category X document (*i.e.*, a document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step) with respect to at least claims 1, 2, and 6. The United Kingdom Examiner considered the abstract and figures to be relevant; and

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 4-347042, published on December 2, 1992, together with an English language Abstract of the same, was cited as a category X document (*i.e.*, a document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step) with respect to at least claims 1, 2, and 6. The United Kingdom Examiner considered the abstract and figures to be relevant.

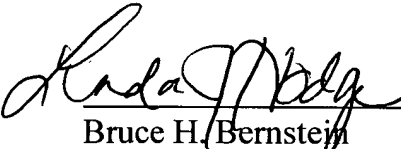
Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents, including the English language abstracts thereof, along with a copy of the United Kingdom Search Report, are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

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Further, Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued, and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p), to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al.

 Reg No 47,348
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

June 21, 2002
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